

# **WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center  
4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

## **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at the above regional service center at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present.** Heather Dlhopsky, Chair; John Bowis, Jane Boynton, Peggy Dennis, Tara Flynn, Livleen Gill, Scott Goldberg, Fritz Hirst, Marc Korman, Virginia Miller, Nancy Regelin, Bob Schwarzbart, John Thomas.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting.** The minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 16, 2012 were approved.

**County Council President Roger Berliner Presentation.** Among the topics Council President Berliner addressed were the following matters of county concern:

1. PEPCO. The Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) held a hearing on the recovery and service operations of PEPCO and other utilities during the derecho storm last summer. Among the matters discussed during the hearing were the number of contractors used and the duration of outages following the storm. President Berliner expects that the PSC will release a final report soon.

2. BRAC. Federal funding has been provided for projects to alleviate traffic congestion resulting from the Base Realignment & Closure Act (BRAC). Some \$40 million will be used to construct a pedestrian tunnel under Rockville Pike connecting Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health.

3. Montgomery County-Fairfax County Meetings. In the first ever meeting between Fairfax and Montgomery counties, transportation committees from the two counties met to discuss traffic challenges at and around the American Legion Bridge. One specific result of that meetings was a joint letter the two counties sent to their respective state transportation agencies asking them to consider using the shoulder of I-495 north and south of the bridge for an HOV lane until a more permanent solution to move more traffic through that roadway can be found.

4. HOV Lanes on I-270. The Council and County Executive Ike Leggett will be asking Maryland state transportation officials to create HOV lanes on I-270 from I-370 north to Clarksburg.

5. Bikeshare. In July, the County secured a Maryland Department of Transportation grant for over \$1 million to expand Capital Bikeshare to the county. Significant financial commitments from state funds and private sector sources.

6. “Effects” Bargaining. Council President Berliner urged Board members to vote and ask others to vote FOR Question B on the ballot in the November 6 general elections. Voting FOR is a vote to sustain the repeal, passed unanimously by the County Council earlier this year, of a provision in county law mandating the Police Department to bargain with the police union on the effects of management decisions taken by the Police Chief. Reasons supporting the Council repeal of the “effects” bargaining requirement were reviewed.

Questions and comments of the Board members followed Council President Berliner’s remarks. Some of the subjects brought up were the possibility of using “smart meters” to make more economic use of electric power provided by PEPCO, the need to keep bicycle safety concerns in mind while going forward with Bikeshare in the county, “transit oriented” development and Ballot Question 7, which would allow table games in existing Maryland casinos and authorize creation of a new casino in National Harbor in Prince George’s County.

**Letter to Montgomery County Council Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED).** Member Bob Schwarzbart moved that the Board authorize Member John Thomas, Chair of the Land Use/Transportation Committee, to send a letter to Montgomery County Council PHED Committee on school capacity planning within the Subdivision Staging Policy. The motion was seconded and, after discussion, passed with the customary understanding that the draft letter considered during the Board’s discussion may be amended to reflect a consensus resulting from that discussion.

**Director’s Update.** Ken Hartman, Regional Services Director, reported as follows:

1. Development Maps. The Regional Services Center has interactive developmental maps available on the internet.
2. “Taste of Friendship Heights” will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2012.
3. The fall offerings of Live & Learn Bethesda (LLB), an educational non-profit organization with which B-CC Regional Service Center has partners, include a number of interesting and entertaining courses.
4. The NIH master plan; Walter Reed Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan will be considered by the Montgomery County Planning Board at their October 18 meeting.

**Committee Reports/New Business.** The Land Use/Transportation Committee reported that the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) offers courses on riding bicycles in urban areas. See the WABA course calendar at <http://www.waba.org/education/calendar.php>

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

---